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two numbers issued recently contain articles on Malayan ferns and Papuan orchids by eminent specialists. Several of the species included are new to science.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Handbook of deciduous trees.—The eleventh part (sixth section of second volume) of SCHNEIDER'S *Handbook* has appeared,⁶ following the preceding part in the same year. As stated in preceding notices, it contains descriptions, with illustrations, of the angiospermous trees of central Europe, both native and under cultivation. The present part begins with the completion of *Viburnum* and ends with *Fraxinus*.—J. M. C.

Flora of Jamaica.⁷—Of the numerous publications concerning West Indian botany which have appeared in recent years, it is doubtful if any has combined so successfully a scientific and semipopular treatment as the present volume. It concerns the Orchidaceae only, and is the result of years of observation of living plants, supplemented by the study of a large amount of herbarium material, particularly the collections in the British Museum, in the Kew Herbarium, and in the Herbarium of the government of Jamaica.

The total number of genera constituting the orchid flora of Jamaica is given as 61, and to these are referred 194 species. One genus, *Homalopetalum*, and 73 of the recognized species are said to be confined to the island. The strongest affinity of the orchid flora is said to be with Cuba, as shown by the fact that 82 out of the 121 species, which are not endemic, occur in Cuba, and 14 of these are restricted to the two islands. The book is attractive in appearance, the keys concise, the synonymy ample but not cumbersome, the descriptions clear, and exsiccatae are very fully cited; moreover, the text is amplified by 32 full-page plates, illustrating all the genera represented, so that the book will be helpful to those interested only in living orchids, as well as to those occupied with the study of herbarium material. The authors state "it is proposed that the present volume shall form the first part of a complete *Flora of Jamaica*." It is earnestly hoped that the proposed work may be carried to completion.—J. M. GREENMAN.

New England trees in winter.—Books of a popular or semi-scientific type dealing with our native trees are already more than sufficiently abundant, and yet it is safe to say that the present volume by BLAKESLEE and JARVIS⁸

⁶ SCHNEIDER, C. K., *Illustriertes Handbuch der Laubholzkunde*. Elfte Lieferung (sechste Lieferung des zweiten Bandes). Imp. 8vo. pp. 657-816. *figs.* 420-514. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1911. *M* 5.

⁷ FAWCETT, WILLIAM, and RENDLE, ALFRED BARTON, *Flora of Jamaica*, containing descriptions of the flowering plants known from the island. Vol. I. Orchidaceae. 8vo. pp. xviii+150. *pls.* 32. London: British Museum (Natural History). 1910.

⁸ BLAKESLEE, A. F., and JARVIS, C. D., *New England trees in winter*. Storrs Agricultural Exper. Sta. Bull. 69. pp. 269. *pls.* 109. 1911.

will be welcomed on its merits both by botanists and by the general public. It consists of an introduction of an elementary character discussing the general problems of tree growth and illustrating some of the technical terms employed, a key for the determination of species on the basis of leaf and bud characters, supplemented by additional keys for the chief genera, and illustrated descriptions of over 100 species found in New England. This list includes not only all that are native to the region, but in addition the species that are commonly grown for ornamental purposes, thus extending the usefulness of the volume to the study of the trees of city parks and of areas far beyond the limits designated in the title of the volume.

One page is devoted to the description of each tree, while facing the description is a plate illustrating the species in winter condition. These plates contain reproductions of photographs of the general habit, the trunk, showing bark characters, the twig with buds and leaf scars, and the fruit. They are so uniformly excellent in quality that they must be regarded as the best collection of illustrations of the sort that have yet appeared. By their aid almost all common trees may be recognized readily by the ordinary reader. The descriptive text is wonderfully complete when its brevity is considered. Synonyms of both popular and scientific names are given, followed by separate paragraphs on the habit, bark, twigs, leaf scars, buds, fruit, wood, distribution, and comparisons with other species. Such an arrangement of material makes the manual well adapted for ready reference. As a manual it should be a valuable addition to those already available for college classes, but it is likely to prove even more valuable to teachers in public and high schools who are attempting to lead pupils to become familiar with our native trees. In addition to its present form, its authors indicate their intention of publishing it as a book, thus making it more widely available.—GEO. D. FULLER.

British liverworts.—In the prefatory note to a little volume on liverworts⁹ the authors say that the book is intended to be a companion volume to their essay on *British mosses*. It is sincerely hoped that it will always remain on the shelf with that volume, and not fall into the hands of isolated students who are trying to get accurate information about liverworts. A few quotations will show what the authors know about the group as well as botany in general. "The liverworts present to one's mind the idea of a crowd of organisms which have not made up their minds in which line they shall go, and are trying experiments in all directions to see what is best for them to take." The following statement will be interesting to morphologists and physiologists: "A marked peculiarity of the thallus [of *Anthoceros*] is found in the manner in which the coloring matter is disposed. In some cells the chlorophyll may be seen gathered round the cell walls, either forming a continuous line or as separate

⁹ FRY, EDWARD and AGNES, *The liverworts, British and foreign*. pp. viii+74. fgs. 49. London: Witherby & Co. 1911.